

MAY 7 1961

STATINT

Approved For Release 2000/04/13 : C

# Kennedy Gloom On Cuba Fading

Shaken by Invasion's Failure,  
He Takes Profit From the Lesson

By David Wise

WASHINGTON.

"We intend to profit from this lesson," President Kennedy told the nation's newspaper editors as the United States-backed rebel invasion of Cuba sputtered to a tragic conclusion on the Bahia de Cochinos.

Those close to the President say the shape and form of the Cuban lesson he has learned are now discernible.

The lesson falls into two parts. One result is a change in the President's personal approach to problems. The other is a change in governmental machinery.

It is now three weeks since the rebel radio broadcast the cryptic message: "Alert, Alert. Look Well at the Rainbow," that signalled the start of the invasion that failed. Some of the personal gloom that pervaded the President's mood — and the White House — during that week of disaster has now been dispelled.

There was a spring in the President's step last week, and an obviously cheerier Presidential mood, that matched the spring that has come to Washington with a bursting out of dogwood and azaleas.

**Was Deeply Shaken.**

But during the tense days of the invasion, the President was reported deeply shaken by the tragic loss of life on the beach-head.

instincts and common sense rather than on the experts. The President apparently has come to the conclusion that he listened too much to the C. I. A. and the military staff and the staff aides who urged him to go into Cuba and to coup in

the advisers who counseled against it.

One adviser who spoke up against the invasion was Arthur M. Schlesinger, now a Special Assistant to the President. Mr. Schlesinger is an historian and a professor by trade; possibly his words did not carry as much weight as the military experts who could cite the precise strength, or so they thought, of Castro's Army and Air Force.

Responsible and informed sources in the White House say that the President had grave doubts about the invasion just before it was launched and raised sharp questions about it. In the end, however, the advice of the experts, rather than his own reservations, prevailed, and the President gave the invasion the green light.

In addition to relying more on his own judgment, the President may be expected to consult more with trusted outsiders who are not part of the Administration.

**Dissent Encouraged**

Also, the Cuban aftermath can be expected to encourage more healthy dissent among members of the White House staff. Some may have been reluctant during the Cuban policy-making to speak up against the judgment of the experts. The President has passed the word among his staff that he wants, and expects, them to express their

could encourage drastic changes in the staff and organization of the intelligence system.

But in the long run, the personal impact of the Cuban episode on the President's thinking may prove the real profit of the lesson of Cuba.